

delay in Chicago, Illinois that prevented my travel, I was unable to cast my vote for roll Number 111.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3992 which passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 371–0. I believe by allowing our allies, such as Israel, to invest in businesses in the United States, we are encouraging job creation and bringing more innovative ideas that will benefit all Americans.

Currently, citizens in 75 countries are eligible to apply for E–2 visas which are non-immigrant visas valid for up to two years and allow visa holders to oversee businesses in which they have considerable capital invested. Prior to 2003, countries could become eligible if specified in trade agreements but now separate legislation is required to add countries to the program.

Countries eligible for E–2 visas span from Albania to Pakistan to the United Kingdom and in Fiscal Year 2010, more than 25,000 E–2 visas were granted. Israel has a reciprocal program allowing United States investors the same ability. E–2 visas invest in our economy and foster working relationships with other countries. Adding Israel to this list will only continue these efforts.

Again, had my flight from Chicago to Washington, DC had not been delayed, I would have voted in support of H.R. 3992.

HONORING SAYDI WOLLNEY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Saydi Wollney is a senior at Pearland High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Although the United States government provides services such as roadways, protection from harm—both foreign and domestic—and regulation of food and drugs, I believe the government has, at times, stepped over their boundaries and infringed upon the rights of the people.

The recent SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and the Protect IP Act wanted to shut down websites which illegally provided services such as making music, videos, and movies available for free download. In doing this, the government also restricted and suppressed websites which were informational and helpful to the public. In this way, the government inadvertently infringed upon the rights of citizens of the United States. After the incident of SOPA closing down Wikipedia for a short while, I noticed it was a popular conversation being held around school. My peers were unhappy and disliked the fact that the government seemed to have

overstepped their boundaries. I realize that the government was doing what they think was best for United States citizens at this point in time, but I believe their actions could have been delivered in a more friendly and informative way.

The issues with Medicaid and Medicare have citizens of the United States disagreeing with one another. Some people believe that Medicaid is a system that simply takes the money that citizens pay in taxes and utilizes it to care for people with a lower level of income. On the other hand, the other people believe that Medicaid is a good cause and is beneficial to those who are in need. The recent health care reform laws have been viewed by many as the government slowly taking control of the health care system. However, other people believe that the health care reform is beneficial and helpful to the American people, including those who could not previously afford health care.

Recently, there have been many debated issues over whether or not the government of the United States is overstepping its own boundaries and regulations of the country. I believe that most of the actions that I have discussed have been beneficial for the United States citizens, with exception of the SOPA and PIPA acts.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOLDAN HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS, WINNERS OF THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 STATE TITLE FOR BASKETBALL AND STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Missouri's own Class 4 State Basketball Champions, the Soldan High School Tigers.

Soldan High School's convincing 55–42 victory over Springfield Hillcrest at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia was the culmination of three years hard work and dedication, resulting in the Tiger's first state championship in basketball in 31 years. Under the leadership of Head Coach Justin Tatum, the Tigers defeated some of the best teams in the nation, outscoring their playoff opponents by an unbelievable average of 24 points a game.

The men of the Soldan High School Tigers are more than merely teammates, they are a band of brothers. Many of the Tigers have played on the same teams since grade school, their recent victory a fitting reward for years of dedication to both each other and the sport of basketball. Especially for Soldan's nine-man senior class of Devin Booker, Aaron Diamini, Kawan Griffin, Randy Holmes, Paul McRoberts, Jibreel Muhammad, Partice Sanders, Elva Shelton, and Rashad Simmons, the season, and their high school careers, ended exactly how they hoped they would.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tatum and the men of the Soldan High School Tigers are true examples of character and sportsmanship, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their remarkable achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 117, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING LARRY SLY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry Sly, Executive Director for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, as he retires after 35 years of public service.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Larry began his career as an Executive Director with the Food Bank of Contra Costa in 1976. Starting with just two employees, Larry brought the organization a truck and trailer, where he stored bread that he picked up from a local grocery store. Soon, people in the area from local churches began distributing this bread to underprivileged people of the community.

In Larry's first year as Executive Director of the Food Bank of Contra Costa, the organization distributed approximately 36,000 pounds of food to people in need of assistance in the local area. Eventually, the Food Bank would merge with a struggling Solano County Food Bank and develop a greater outreach program within the region. Every year, with Larry's leadership, the Food Bank steadily increases the number of families who received food donations and groceries; last year they distributed over 14 million pounds of food.

During his time with the Food Bank, Larry has developed successful programs to help locals and agencies distribute food in a cheaper, more efficient manner. One such program, the Senior Food Program, provides low income senior citizens the opportunity to receive free groceries each month. Another, the Farm to Kid Program, provides five pounds of food every week for low income families as well as three to five pounds of fresh produce for every child in after school programs at low-income schools.

Throughout his career in public service, Larry has served at a number of statewide and national organizations. He served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Feeding America and the National Food Bank Network, as well as on the Board of Directors at the California Association of Food Banks and the Emergency Food and Shelter Board in Contra Costa County. In 2009, Larry also served as Interim Executive Director for Feeding America San Diego, where he helped improve and manage the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I invite this chamber to join me in recognizing Larry Sly for his commitment